

## **ITS INNERWEB SITE DESIGN CHANGES**

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Section/Group: Web Application Design  
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The ITS Web Design Team is in the process of updating the look, style, and consistency of the ITS Innerweb to bring it within compliance of the directives of Department and Division management. This process involves implementation of a new banner and footer using server-side “includes” technology, the establishment of a fresh color scheme, and the institution of a site-wide style to establish a consistent look throughout.

In essence, this means that typefaces, page, section, and subsection headings, and body copy will be controlled by Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) and Dreamweaver default settings. In conjunction with the “includes,” this will allow almost instantaneous changes to banners, footers, headings, typefaces and body copy throughout the site without the necessity of going through this process again. In addition, to become compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), making our site accessible to those using “Internet readers,” all images and tables contained within our site will be properly tagged. This, in itself, is a tedious, time-consuming task.

At the same time, the Design Team is rebuilding the back-end file structure to enhance security and better utilize valuable server space through the regular elimination of extraneous and outdated image and data files. Each contributor will be given a separate directory containing only their specific pages, images, and files, enhancing accessibility while reducing the risk of overwriting files.

### **What This Means to Content Contributors to the ITS Innerweb Site**

This is a priority project that will be completed and online during the week of June 18th. To facilitate this process, ITS Innerweb content contributors are asked to refrain from updating Innerweb pages from the effective date (above) until further notice.

Some contributors have expressed an interest in learning and implementing the conversion process themselves. However, there are many steps involved, with several potential obstacles and difficult situations that need to be worked around. This often involves manipulation of the raw HTML code. The time necessary to train and assist contributors for this one-time process is prohibitive within the time

frame allowed for completion. Also, most contributors have daily responsibilities which supercede any time they may wish to spend on the conversion, while the Design Team is fully trained and dedicated to the ITS Internet and intranet projects.

Once the changes have been implemented, contributors will be contacted by a Design Team member and given detailed instructions on how to update and maintain pages using the new formatting, directory structure, and style sheets. In the mean time, if you have information that must be published and cannot wait, contact Frank Stehno (538-3480) for instructions on how to proceed. Also, if you have updated your pages on or after April 25th, contact Frank with that information as well.

### **What This Means to State Agencies**

Access to the ITS Innerweb site, using the current URL (<http://its.innerweb.state.ut.us>) will not be affected. The changes will be invisible to anyone entering the site through that route. However, because of the reorganization of the back-end file structure, and because of the implementation of server-side includes, which require a change in the page file extensions from .htm to .shtml, it is probable that any existing links (from agency Web pages) and “bookmark” or “favorite” links, will be broken.

We apologize for this inconvenience, but feel that the long range advantages of these changes, to both ITS employees and to the customers ITS supports, outweigh any negative results. These new design methods and technologies will make it possible to implement regular changes to our site without disrupting the operation and function of the site, and will enhance the user experience and the accessibility of up-to-date, viable information. Future changes should not disrupt links and bookmarks established after the changeover.

If you have questions after the week of June 18th concerning this conversion process, reestablishing broken links, or if you have difficulty accessing the new version (browser caches may need to be cleared), contact Frank Stehno (801-538-3480 or [fstehno@das.state.ut.us](mailto:fstehno@das.state.ut.us)) for assistance.

Beyond the obvious physical enhancements, the knowledge and experience gained by enriching the ITS Innerweb will allow the ITS Design Team to better assist customer agencies as they establish their own Internet and Intranet sites, perhaps using the ITS site as a model.

This changeover is a complicated and complex process. Our Division's Innerweb has grown to over two-thousand pages. Every effort is being made to avoid broken links and lost information. Your patience, understanding, and help in this process will go a long way toward a smooth transition. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.